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->From the Editor's Keyboard "Saying it like it is!"
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Well, my work schedule this week didn't give me much time to get this week's issue as organized as I'd like. So again this week, we're running later than usual to get it out. I apologize, but it just couldn't be helped.

Under these conditions, it wouldn't be fair to you or me to rush trying to get some editorial comments jotted down and have some sense made out of them, so I won't attempt to do so. So, in the essence of time, let's just get to the issue and we'll work on commentary for another time.

Until next time...

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->In This Week's Gaming Section - Duke Nukem Comeback Delayed, Again!
""""""""""""""""""""""""""""""" Nintendo 3DS Could Use Fresher Games!
PS3 Hacker Flees Country?
And more!

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->A-ONE's Game Console Industry News - The Latest Gaming News!
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Duke Nukem Videogame Comeback Delayed - Again

The long-delayed comeback of videogame tough guy "Duke Nukem" hit another snag on Thursday with 2K Games bumping arrival of the latest title back a month into June.

First-person shooter game "Duke Nukem Forever" has been a work in

progress since 1997, missing a slew of release dates before 2K put it in the hands of Gearbox Software developers last year for completion.

"We’re committed to deliver a laugh-out-loud, politically incorrect experience that people will talk about for years to come," said 2K president Christoph Hartmann.

"We thank Duke’s fans for their continued patience - I promise this won’t take another 15 years."

The videogame’s excruciatingly protracted creation process has made it prime fodder for jokes in the industry.

The upcoming title is a sequel to a "Duke Nukem 3D" videogame that sold more than three million copies after its release in late 1996.

The blockbuster videogame franchise was light on storyline, with players basically battling aliens, monsters and mutants in an urban Earth setting.

2K said "Forever" will be "boiling over-the-top with irreverent humor, catchy one-liners that will make your mama blush, and frantic, bone-shaking action sequences that will simultaneously rock your world and neighbors’ walls."

The videogame, which features a notoriously unrefined character and a "mature" rating, is tailored for play on Xbox 360 and PlayStation 3 consoles as well as personal computers powered by Windows software.

## Solid Nintendo 3DS Could Use Fresher Games

Whether you’re watching a Hollywood action movie in an IMAX theater or college hoops on a 3-D TV, there’s no denying the wow factor of current 3-D technology. And the trend isn’t lost on video-game companies - particularly Sony, which has been trumpeting the 3-D environments of recent PlayStation 3 games like "Killzone 3."

Still, big-screen 3-D isn’t for everybody: Those of us with poor vision will probably never adjust to wearing 3-D glasses on top of our prescription specs.

That’s why Nintendo’s announcement last year that it had created eyeglasses-free 3-D was greeted with such enthusiasm. And its 3DS portable game machine ($250) lives up to the hype, creating a convincing illusion of a third dimension beyond its 3.5-inch screen.

The most dazzling demonstration, which comes installed on the device, is "AR Games." ("AR" stands for "augmented reality.") Place a card on a table, point the 3DS cameras at it - and a dragon bursts out of the flat surface. To shoot targets on the dragon, you have to move yourself around the card to find different angles.

You can also take 3-D photos and add a variety of effects. Or you can incorporate your friends’ images into "Face Raiders," which morphs them onto a fleet of floating, whirling attack helicopters. Like "AR Games," it’s simple, but offers a promising glimpse of what we might expect from future 3DS software.

Nintendo has assembled a solid but derivative lineup of 18 games ($40 each) to accompany the launch of the hardware. Almost all of them are based on familiar franchises, including Nintendo's own "Pilotwings Resort," a lighthearted flying game, and "Nintendogs + Cats," a lovable pet simulator.

The 3-D effect does enhance sports games like EA Sports' "Madden NFL Football" and Namco Bandai's "Ridge Racer 3D." But it feels superfluous in Capcom's "Super Street Fighter IV 3D Edition" because its 3-D angles tend to block your view; it's a good game, but "SF" fans will probably stick to the 2-D perspective.

LucasArts' "Lego Star Wars III: The Clone Wars" delivers flashier 3-D effects: In combat, enemies burst into Lego bricks that look like they're going to burst through the screen. For the most part, though, the game plays just as well in two dimensions.

It's easy enough to switch that extra dimension on and off, and I suspect many players will make frequent use of the device's 2-D/3-D slider. If you look away from the 3-D screen, it takes a few seconds to readjust your eyes back to it. More significantly, my eyes got tired after about 10 minutes of 3-D action, so I spent more time with it turned off.

So, if the games are just as playable in two dimensions, what's the point? The 3DS launch lineup doesn't answer that question, but surely some developers are plotting software that makes 3-D more integral to gameplay.

Beyond 3-D, the 3DS does sport several new features that will delight longtime players of Nintendo handhelds. The most welcome change is a circular thumb pad - at last! - that complements the traditional plus-sign-shaped directional pad. The 3DS adds a motion sensor so you can tilt the device to control the action in games like "Super Monkey Ball 3D." And a retractable stylus can be adjusted to your comfort level.

The whole package is only slightly thicker and heavier than 2008's DSi. The biggest drawback is battery life: If you have the screen set at maximum brightness, a charge lasts just three hours.

Before release, I was unable to try out the 3DS' wireless features, which encourage you to leave the device turned on - in sleep mode - while you carry it around. SpotPass will detect wireless hotspots and automatically download information and free software, Nintendo says. StreetPass will detect other 3DS players and automatically transfer data such as Mii avatars between devices. And the Nintendo eShop, like the earlier model's DSi Shop, will let you buy and download new games, starting in May.

Nintendo's longtime dominance of handheld gaming has been threatened by the expanding presence of smartphones, especially Apple's iPhone. It will probably take more than 3-D technology to slow down the competition, so the eShop and the 3DS' other wireless goodies will be key. What the 3DS demonstrates is that Nintendo isn't going to give up the portable market without a fight.

## PS3 Hacker Geohot Flees to South America?

And he’s off! It looks like PS3 hacker George Hotz, aka Geohot, isn’t taking any chances with Sony’s legal juggernaut. He may - and we stress ’may’ - have fled to South America. He may also have lied about not having a PlayStation Network account.

That’s the story from Sony, anyway. Here’s what Sony claims in an official legal filing related to the case Sony Computer Entertainment America LLC v. Hotz et al, noticed by VGHQ (my emphasis).

* Though the evidence establishing personal jurisdiction is already overwhelming, SCEA has little doubt that there is much more. However, over the last several weeks Hotz has engaged in a campaign to thwart jurisdictional discovery at every turn - regardless of whether the Court has ordered such discovery or not. *

* Most seriously, after Magistrate Judge Spero ordered an inspection of Hotz’s devices and ordered Hotz to appear at a deposition in California, SCEA learned that Hotz had deliberately removed integral components of his impounded hard drives prior to delivering them to a third party neutral and *that Hotz is now in South America*, an excuse for why he will not immediately provide the components of his hard drives as requested by the neutral. *

* Hotz’s attempts to dodge this Court’s authority raise very serious questions. *

Sony was recently granted subpoena access to Hotz’s PayPal account, and earlier secured a subpoena to view the IP addresses of anyone who accessed Hotz’s site from January 2009 forward.

None of this nullifies the question of whether hacking your PS3 is illegal, but as not-smart legal moves go, this one could shortly be a top-tenner.

*Update: * The BBC reports that while Hotz is acknowledging he is in fact in South America, the trip was planned "for months" and that he remains in contact with his lawyers. On his blog, Hotz wrote:

"Factually, it’s true I’m in South America, on a vacation I’ve had planned and paid for since November. I mean, it is Spring break; hacking isn’t my life."

Hotz’s response leaves Sony’s allegations that he left the country to avoid turning over his hardware unchallenged, but does diminish media intimations the trip is related.

## Sony Ties Hotz to PSN Account, Says He Sabotaged Hardware

Sony has filed a new document arguing that the legal action against the noted hacker George Hotz should proceed in California. One of the arguments Hotz’s legal team made against California’s jurisdiction was the lack of a PlayStation Network account, which means he didn’t agree to the Terms of Service, but now the company claims to have "proof" that Hotz did in fact have a PSN account. An interview with a company based in California, and the number of downloads from California, are being used as evidence.

Sony noted that Hotz had four PlayStation 3 systems in his possession, and

he also provided Sony the serial numbers for each system. "He explained that he had purchased one of these consoles new in February 2010 and provided the serial number for that console. SCEA used that serial number to determine that on February 25, 2010, Hotz purchased the PS3 System at a GameStop store just miles from his home," Sony stated. Their records show that system was used on March 10, 2010 to create a PlayStation Network account with the name "blickmanic."

But that's not all. "The IP address associated with the registration is located in Glen Rock, New Jersey, where Hotz lives," Sony said. "Hotz's ownership of the 'blickmanic' account is further supported by the fact that an Internet search of the user name 'blickmanic' reveals a posting discussing the jailbreaking of cellular phones - Hotz's original "claim to fame." Taken together, the evidence is awfully damning. There is more information needed to create a PSN account, but Sony declined to share the name or location behind the account.

Sony also argued that the large amount of people who downloaded Hotz' content in California also creates justification for the jurisdiction. "In Zippo Mfg. Co. v. Zippo DOT Com, another case relied upon by Hotz, the court held that the 3,000 Internet users within the forum state who subscribed to the defendant's website services satisfied the test for personal jurisdiction," the court document stated. Hotz had his content downloaded from over 5,000 IP addresses located in California. Sony also argued that Hotz's website is not passive, but an active way to spread the infringing content, pointing to messages where Hotz asked others to link to his site, and his spreading of the content listed on various online communities.

Just in case this isn't enough for the court to grant jurisdiction in California, Sony throws in the kitchen sink. "Hotz has also given an interview regarding his hacking of the PS3 System to The Register, an online technology publication whose US operation is based in San Francisco, California," Sony said.

Sony also leveled more serious charges against Hotz. According to the console maker, Hotz has removed components from his impounded hard drives and can't deliver the needed hardware to the courts due to his current location in South America. "Hotz s attempts to dodge this Court s authority raise very serious questions," Sony stated.

## Sony Hacker: I'm Just on Spring Break

George Hotz, the Sony PlayStation 3 hacker who reportedly fled to South America to dodge discovery in Sony's lawsuit against him, has spoken out against yesterday's headlines.

It's true that Hotz, better known to the Internet community as "geohot," flew to South America, but he says it was for /spring break,/ not to flee the country. And to prove he will be back, Hotz cheekily wrote on his blog that he has to return to the U.S. at some point to buy the Sony Xperia Play, which will probably launch domestically before heading to South America.

"Apparently, I have fled the country. ROFL," Hotz blogged on Wednesday night.

"Factually, it’s true I’m in South America, on a vacation I’ve had planned and paid for since November. I mean, it is Spring break; hacking isn’t my life. Rest assured that not a dime of legal defense money would ever go toward something like this. And of course Townsend loves the idea of painting me as an international fugitive. I have been in contact with my lawyers almost every day; I would not let the case suffer. That said, I also won’t let this ridiculous lawsuit run my life either. Then the fearmongerers win.

"I will be back, I hear it’s hard to come by the Xperia Play down here."

In January Sony Computer Entertainment of America (SCEA) sued Hotz for posting online the root key of a PlayStation 3, which enables third-party software to work on the console. SCEA contends that this is a direct violation of the Digital Copyright Millenium Act (DCMA) passed in 1998.

Since Hotz’ arrest in January the SCEA has also sued "Bushing," Hector Martin Cantero, Sven Peter, and others alleged to be part of the FAIL0VERFLOW group of hackers that contributed to the root key’s exposure.

Earlier this week SCEA claimed Hotz had escaped to South America to dodge a judge’s order to hand over components of his hard drive. Hotz’ next court appearance is scheduled for April 8.

In February, Hotz thanked supporters for donating enough money to cover his ongoing legal fees.

## Hotz: Didn’t Flee, Didn’t Sabotage

Yesterday, we linked to a story about the most recent allegations Sony made against George ’GeoHot’ Hotz in their ongoing court case. Supposedly, Hotz has sabotaged the hardware he had to hand over, and he had fled the country to further stifle the court case, among other things. Hotz’ lawyer, as well as Hotz himself, have responded to these allegations. The gist? They’re all nonsense.

Let’s start with the accusation that Hotz sabotaged the evidence - namely, hard drives - that had to be handed over to Sony. Ars spoke with one of Hotz’ lawyers, Stewart Kellar, and he was pretty clear. "SCEA’s lawyers are using intentionally ambiguous language so that the public, and the Court, might assume the worst. The ’components’ SCEA is talking about are hard drives’ controller cards. The neutral [third party examining the drives] subsequently had to explain to SCEA the form and function of hard drive controller cards," Kellar explained to Ars, "It is a stock part that can be purchased at any electronics hardware store. Those controller cards have since been provided to the neutral so the point is moot."

The idea that Hotz had fled the country is even crazier, as Hotz himself detailed in a short statement on his website. As it turns out, Hotz is visiting a friend in South America, a vacation that was planned and paid for in November 2010, even before Sony sued Hotz. "I mean, it is Spring break; hacking isn’t my life," Hotz wrote, "Rest assured that not a dime of legal defense money would ever go toward something like this. And of course Townsend loves the idea of painting me as an international fugitive. I have been in contact with my lawyers almost every day; I would not let the case suffer. That said, I also won’t let this

ridiculous lawsuit run my life either. Then the fearmongerers win."

That part about the defense money is also important: it was said that Hotz was using money donated for his legal costs to travel, but this is utter nonsense both Hotz and Kellar claim. "It should be noted that the donation money George has received is being used exclusively for his legal defense," Kellar told Ars, "If there are any funds left after the lawsuit, George is planning to donate the money to the EFF."

Hotz is planning to return to the US soon, because, as he notes, "it's hard to come by the Xperia Play down here".

All the things mentioned by Hotz and Kellar are easy enough to prove with receipts, so hopefully, this will go down well during this court case. Of course, so far, the magistrate handling this matter has sided squarely with Sony, so I'm not keeping my hopes up.

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A-ONE's Headline News
The Latest in Computer Technology News
Compiled by: Dana P. Jacobson

## Cuba Says Prominent Blogger Part of US 'Cyber-War'

Cuba on Monday accused prominent blogger Yoani Sanchez of taking part in a "cyber-war" launched by the United States and aimed at destabilizing the communist government.

The accusations came in a documentary series aired on state TV in which an engineer from the information ministry and pro-government bloggers accuse Washington of targeting the country through "cyber-dissident" proxies.

"There exists on the island a new kind of counterrevolution composed of bloggers... These cyber-mercenaries constitute a new instrument to create internal conflicts," the documentary said.

Sanchez, 35, an internationally-known blogger and dissident who writes on the site "Generation Y" has long traded barbs with a regime that accuses her of serving foreign agendas.

In a blog video in response to the latest charges, Sanchez and five other opponents accuse the government of "demonizing" the internet after revolutions led by online activists brought down longstanding regimes in Egypt and Tunisia.

"It is nervous because social networks like Twitter and Facebook can play the same role in Cuba they did in Egypt and Tunisia," it said. The video can be viewed at www.desdecuba.com/generationy.

Last month Cuba hailed the laying of a new undersea fiber-optic cable to Venezuela, which it said would allow the country to surmount a

decades-old US embargo that had forced it to rely on more expensive satellite connections.

But dissidents have said the government keeps a tight grip on information and communications to stifle dissent.

Earlier on Monday, US President Barack Obama urged Havana to take "meaningful actions to respect the basic rights of the Cuban people" during a Latin America visit overshadowed by the popular uprisings in the Middle East.

The documentary series, entitled "Cuba's Reasons," is being aired following the conviction this month of a US State Department contractor on subversion charges, which further strained relations between the longtime foes.

American Alan Gross was sentenced to 15 years in prison for allegedly committing "acts against the independence and territorial integrity of the state" in a verdict Washington has called "an injustice."

He was working under contract for the US State Department when he was arrested in late 2009 for distributing cell phones and computers to members of the island's struggling Jewish community.

## China's Recent Web Clampdown a Blow to Human Rights

China's latest efforts at tightening its control over the Internet - including the blocking of Gmail and Web software that can bypass the censorship - have hampered the work of human rights activists, say groups based in the U.S.

"The Chinese government is specifically targeting the communications of human rights activists," said Phelim Kine, an Asia researcher with New York-based Human Rights Watch. "They've done this before, but this has been much more prolonged. It is much more intense."

In the past weeks, Internet users in China have reported greater difficulty with accessing Gmail, posting on microblogs that the service is slow or blocked. Several companies providing virtual private networks (VPNs), which can allow users to view sites and content blocked by Chinese Internet censors,
have also reported access problems in the country.

Human rights activists use both Gmail and VPNs to communicate and access information over the Web. But the recent blocking has isolated activists working in China, while making them fearful they will face subversion charges from the Chinese government, Kine said.

Experts say the increased censorship is tied to the "Jasmine Revolution," an online call for the Chinese people to protest the government sparked by the political unrest in the Middle East. The protest calls originated last month with a group of anonymous activists. But China has responded by detaining Chinese human rights advocates and deploying large police forces across cities to prevent any protests from occurring.

"The current campaign is sending a chill through the community of human rights defenders in China," Kine said. He added that the activists he

knows in China are all currently detained. "The activist community is beleaguered, under-resourced and always under threat. Currently it’s under lock and key. That’s the state of play for activists in China."

Sharon Hom, the executive director for Human Rights In China, said communication between activist networks and their families in China has been unstable with the disruptions to Gmail and the VPNs. "Sometimes we just haven’t been able to get through," she said. "It’s made us concerned about the security of the communication."

China has the world’s largest Internet population at 457 million, according to the latest official count. But information on the Web is strictly controlled, with content deemed politically sensitive blocked or deleted from the sites.

VPNs have sometimes been the victim of censorship when highly political sensitive events occur like the 60th anniversary of Chinese communist rule back in 2009. But in the past only free services were blocked, while paid VPNs providers were unaffected, said Phil Blancett, the president of a VPN provider StrongVPN.com.

However, now paid VPNs such as StrongVPN and WiTopia are also being blocked. StrongVPN’s customers include foreigners as well as businesses, Blancett said. "They blocked quite a few VPN provider websites from what we have seen," he said. "We don’t understand the Chinese government’s effort to crack down on VPN providers like ourselves."

China’s tightening of control over the Web could have greater effect on businesses operating in the country, said Mark Natkin, the managing director of Beijing-based Marbridge Consulting. He noted that in recent days, even commercial sites free of political content have been inaccessible, a sign that the censorship is spilling over into business activities.

"I think as long as we continue to see the upheaval that we are seeing in North Africa and the Middle East, China will continue to be more sensitive than usual, and so there will be a tighter control," Natkin said. He added that in the eye’s of China’s leadership, "The argument will always come down to the same thing: what sacrifices are necessary to maintain greater stability?"

But China could start to see some push back from the business and academic community over the increased censorship, Hom said. On Monday, Google accused the Chinese government of blocking Gmail after users had complained for weeks. The search engine company said the blocking was designed to make it look like the access problems were coming from Google.

"You are getting some companies like Google to go public by speaking out," Hom said. "Google is exercising leadership in this public arena, saying that this is a serious problem."

China’s Foreign Ministry has denied Google’s accusation. On Thursday, a Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said she had no comment on the blocking of VPNs because she did not fully understand the situation. But she added China’s Internet is open and operates according to the law.

## Taiwan’s AsusTek Launches Android-Powered Tablet

AsusTek Computer Inc. unveiled a sleek tablet computer on Friday, after the Taiwanese firm saw the sales of its once popular line of mini-laptops stall following the launch of Apple’s hit iPad.

AsusTek says the EEE Pad Transformer, which runs on the Android 3.0 operating system, distinguishes itself with an optional keyboard that is superior to docking options for other tablets because of its light weight and flexibility.

Its 10.1-inch screen with a front and rear camera can be detached from the keyboard to allow users on the move quick Web browsing and film viewing. Plugging it to the keyboard dock, the device can then be used as a full-fledged laptop.

"In our own pursuit of perfection, we offer users more options," AsusTek CEO Jerry Shen told The Associated Press. "They can get a full range of functions including 10-finger touch, Flash supported video viewing, e-book reading, and a physical keyboard so they don’t have to deal with any inconveniences."

The EEE Pad Transformer, which became available for pre-order in Taiwan on Friday, goes on sale in the U.K. on March 30, to be followed by U.S. sales.

In Taiwan, the 16 GB version without the keyboard sells for 14,900 New Taiwan dollars ($500), while the keyboard version costs NT$17,900 ($600). The company did not provide prices for other markets.

Another Asus tablet, the 12-inch e-Slate powered by the Microsoft Windows operating system, went on sale in January, while two additional Asus tablet models will go on sale soon. Shen said he expected total sales of the four models to reach two million units in 2011.

Taiwan’s Acer Inc., the world’s third largest computer vendor, has already unveiled four tablet models, as well as a 4.8-inch smartphone that doubles as a tablet. The company says all will be on sale next month.

Shen acknowledged Apple Inc.’s current dominance in the rapidly expanding tablet computer market, but predicted that its market share would fall to 50 percent by 2012, as devices run on Android and Microsoft systems pick up steam.

Asus pioneered netbooks - mini-laptops - to great fanfare in 2007. Once seen as a key to the company’s growth, sales remained flat in 2010, Shen said, following the iPad’s appearance in the marketplace.

## RIM PlayBook Ready To Contest Crowded Tablet Market

It’s official: with the launch of Research In Motion’s PlayBook tablet now just a month away, the BlackBerry maker’s battle against Apple and Google is at the cusp of a fierce new phase.

RIM said on Tuesday its tablet will finally hit store shelves April 19, seven months after the device was announced.

The North American rollout will come almost a month after Apple's (AAPL.O) iPad 2 goes on sale outside of the United States, where it sold up to 1 million units in its first weekend alone.

On Tuesday, Apple confirmed it would start selling the iPad 2 in 25 more countries from Friday. That eased concerns that the crisis in Japan might curtail the supply of crucial components for electronic devices. Shares in both Apple and RIM closed higher.

As it enters the tablet market, RIM has little room for error and a small window to impress. It was once the undisputed king of mobile communications, but slicker Google (GOOG.O) Android and Apple products have become must-haves for young consumers while also threatening RIM's corporate bastion.

"The big question is the Playbook's appeal to those not already part of the BlackBerry world," said CCS Insight's Geoff Blaber.

While investors await the consumer's verdict, the Canadian company has one more set of quarterly results to unveil without the PlayBook.

The report, due Thursday, is likely to show RIM's global growth story on track. As with recent quarters, the catalysts are sure to be higher overseas sales of cheaper handsets and U.S. discounts. Turmoil at Nokia, the leader in the low-end of the market, probably didn't hurt matters either.

The PlayBook will likely contribute only marginally to sales and earnings this year. Even so, it represents a nascent opportunity for RIM in a booming tablet marketplace.

RIM is hoping the PlayBook's natural affinity with its corporate-friendly smartphones gives sales an early boost and offsets a move by more companies to allow workers to use their own non-BlackBerry smartphones to access work-related email and data.

Unlike the almost 10-inch iPad, the 7-inch PlayBook boasts support for Flash, but the RIM tablet will not ship with its own cellular connection until mid-year.

The first version of the PlayBook pairs with a BlackBerry smartphone for features such as corporate email and to any smartphone for connectivity when not near a WiFi connection.

RIM's tablet will sell in 20,000 retail and wireless carrier outlets including Best Buy for as little as $499, matching the pricing for the iPad.

Apple sold nearly 15 million iPads in nine months of 2010, two or three times as many as analysts had forecast. It is expected to sell 30 million or more this year.

Still, worries remain about the supply of key components. Several key components in the new version of the tablet come from Japan, including the battery and the flash memory used to store music and video on the device, according to research firm IHS iSuppli.

Expectations for the PlayBook are lower, with between 1 million and 4 million sales seen this year.

Scotia Capital analyst Gus Papageorgiou, who expects sales at the high end of that range, said the expansive distribution network could boost PlayBook 2011 sales to more than 7.3 million in North America alone.

While RIM is seen as less exposed to Japanese supplies, its conference call following the numbers could also provide further insight from mobile industry executives on supply chain disruptions due to the earthquake.

RIM likely shipped almost 14.9 million devices in the quarter, which included Christmas and Valentine's Day, according to 12 analysts surveyed by Reuters. They shipped 14.2 million in the previous quarter.

In its last reported quarter RIM got 44 percent of its revenue from outside North America and Britain. That portion is expected to grow as RIM extends deeper into emerging markets.

A shift in mix toward cheaper phones will hit average selling prices and mean RIM must ship even more phones to boost revenue, but will likely not hit gross margins, which at 43 percent are among the highest in the mobile industry.

Meanwhile, a November discount on its Torch model, launched in August with an improved browser, may have offset RIM's U.S. market share losses since Verizon started selling the iPhone.

Turmoil at global rival Nokia, which has sidelined its own software platforms to ink a deal with Microsoft, could bolster RIM in big growth markets as it sells increasing numbers of its lower-end smartphones, such as the Curve 8520, in Latin America, South East Asia and elsewhere.

## Mozilla Unleashes Sleek New Firefox Web Browser

A fast, sleek new version of Firefox was released on Wednesday to vie Microsoft's Internet Explorer 9 (IE9) and Google Chrome in the fiercely competitive market for Web browsing software.

Nonprofit group Mozilla made Firefox 4 available as a free download to computers powered by Windows, Mac OS X or Linux operating systems in more than 80 languages.

Firefox 4 was billed as six times faster than its predecessor and boasted features including a "Do Not Track" signal to opt-out of having online activities recorded by websites for targeted online ads or services.

The open-source Web browsing software was also designed as a stage for rich video or game graphics based on the HTML5 standard being touted as a boon for online visual experiences.

"Firefox puts users in control of their Web experience, providing a streamlined user interface, fun new features, a boost in speed and support for modern Web technologies," Mozilla said in an online message.

Powerful new versions of Chrome and IE9 Web browsers were released earlier this month by Google and Microsoft, respectively, putting pressure on California based Mozilla to release a finished version of

Firefox 4.

Microsoft’s Internet Explorer is the most widely used Web browser in the United States followed by Firefox, Chrome and Apple’s Safari.

## Unlike IE9, Firefox 4 Will Still Support Windows XP

New versions of the two most popular browsers - Microsoft’s Internet Explorer and Mozilla’s Firefox - are being released. Among their competing features is an unusual twist - Firefox, which is being released Tuesday, will support Microsoft’s venerable and still-popular Windows XP operating system, while IE will not.

IE9 is designed to support Vista and Windows 7, while the new Firefox also supports XP as well as Windows 2000. Microsoft has said it decided not to support XP in IE9 because it will utilize the graphics processor, which isn’t possible under XP, which was released in 2001. A Microsoft executive told news media that supporting XP would have meant "optimizing for the lowest common denominator."

Like IE, Firefox 4 offers support for hardware acceleration in Vista and Windows 7 by utilizing Direct2D and Direct3D APIs. XP doesn’t support Direct2D, but Firefox uses Direct3D on XP to provide partial acceleration in Firefox 4.

According to web-statistics firm Net Applications, XP represents 55 percent of operating systems connected to the web, or 61 percent of all Windows-based systems. Jonathan Nightingale of the Mozilla Foundation told news media that "our obligation is to the users, and Windows XP is not a part we can cut out."

Other browsers, including Apple’s Safari for Windows, Opera and Google’s Chrome, will continue to support XP, which Microsoft has essentially abandoned as it attempts to move users to Vista and Windows 7.

In a video on Mozilla’s web site, Nightingale said the new JavaScript engine in Firefox 4 is up to "six times faster than any previous version we’ve shipped." He also pointed to a new "streamlined user interface, which takes up a lot less space." Another new feature is app tabs, which pin small site icons for frequently visited sites to the edge of the interface.

Panorama is a new Firefox feature that allows many tabs to be organized, instead of searching for them in the tab strip. For customization, an Add-On Manager includes extensions and plug-ins as well as a search-engine interface for finding new add-ons. Firefox Sync offers the ability to sync personal information between devices, with the information being encrypted locally before moving. Firefox 4 is also offering new support for HTML5, WebGL, CSS3 and downloadable fonts.

IE9 also offers extensive support for those web technologies, and Microsoft said its browser rethinks "the concept of fast" and how "people interact with web sites and web applications."

In IE9, Pinned Sites can be accessed directly from the Windows 7 taskbar without having to first open the browser. With IE9’s JumpList, a web-site task can be accessed, again without having to launch the

browser first. This assumes the site developer has implemented JumpList capabilities, and, if so, composing a new e-mail, checking an inbox, changing a music station, or accepting an invitation can be initiated outside the browser.

There’s also Aero Snap, for positioning two sites side by side in separate windows. One box incorporates search functionality into the Address Bar, as well as the ability to navigate to a site, search for a site, switch between search providers, or access browsing history or favorites.

Finally, Microsoft pointed to IE9’s built-in security, privacy and reliability technologies. A new Tracking Protection allows a user to limit the browser’s ability to communicate your actions to certain web sites, as determined by a Tracking Protection List that the user can determine.

## Best Buy To Sell Access to New Wireless Network

LightSquared, a company that’s building a new nationwide wireless broadband network, says Best Buy will resell access to that network, starting with a trial early next year.

Best Buy Co. is the biggest customer so far to sign up with LightSquared. The electronics chain will sell the service under its own Best Buy Connect brand. LightSquared CEO Sanjiv Ahuja announced it Wednesday in a speech at a wireless show in Orlando, Fla.

On Tuesday, LightSquared said Leap Wireless International Inc., the parent of the Cricket phone service, plans to use Reston, Va.-based LightSquared’s "fourth-generation," or 4G, network to supplement its own.

San Diego-based Leap is the country’s seventh-largest phone company, with 5.5 million customers.

## Facebook Struggles To Block Underage Users

Facebook cancels as many as 20,000 accounts each day, including any it identifies as being used by underage children, the social-networking giant said this week. However, Facebook also admitted that it’s struggling to enforce the age restrictions it imposes.

According to Facebook’s privacy policy, users must be at least 13 years old to create an account. The reality, however, is that there are no government-issued credentials on which the social-networking giant can draw to confirm the ages of the younger members among Facebook’s 600 million users worldwide.

Part of the problem is that age-identification measures in the vast majority of countries are limited to proving whether someone is an adult, noted Facebook Chief Privacy Adviser Mozelle Thompson. "In western countries we don’t often have mechanisms for proving if someone is a kid," Thompson told a select committee of Australia’s Parliament this week. "Facebook uses various methods to identify underage accounts,

including the monitoring of information placed on the site and community reports from other users."

The Pew Internet & American Life Project reported last year that 46 percent of 12-year-olds in the United States were participating in social networks. Moreover, 73 percent of teenagers ages 13-17 reported using a social-networking web site.

Given the widespread popularity of social networking among adults worldwide, it’s no surprise that a significant number of children are willing to lie about their age to participate in Facebook and other web sites. To address this problem, Thompson said Facebook is considering the creation of a social-media product for those under the age of 13 to provide a safer online space.

Responding to a string of teenage suicides that occurred as a result of cyberbullying last year, the White House recently held its first-ever conference for bullying prevention in cooperation with representatives from Facebook and MTV.

"If there’s one goal of this conference, it’s to dispel the myth that bullying is just a harmless rite of passage or an inevitable part of growing up," President Barack Obama said earlier this month. "It’s not. Bullying can have destructive consequences for our young people."

One of Facebook’s new goals is to empower users by giving them the tools they need to take corrective action on the social-networking site. Among other things, report buttons are now located across Facebook pages to let users flag abusive content that violates the social-networking giant’s terms of service.

What’s more, Facebook has initiated a social-reporting feature that enables younger users to receive help from someone they trust, such as a friend, parent, teacher or mentor. "Safety and child-psychology experts tell us that online issues are frequently a reflection of what is happening offline," the Facebook team wrote in a blog. "By encouraging people to seek help from friends, we hope that many of these situations can be resolved face-to-face."

Though the new social-reporting features only cover photos and wall posts right now, Facebook said it plans to extend them to profiles, groups, pages and events. "Our goal is to encourage a conversation around safety so people can make smart choices wherever they are," the Facebook team added.

## Manhattan Federal Judge Kimba Wood Calls Record Companies’ Request for $75 Trillion in Damages ’Absurd’ in Lime Wire Copyright Case

Does $75 trillion even exist? The thirteen record companies that are suing file-sharing company Lime Wire for copyright infringement certainly thought so. When they won a summary judgment ruling last May they demanded damages that could reach this mind-boggling amount, which is more than five times the national debt.

Manhattan federal district court judge Kimba Wood, however, saw things differently. She labeled the record companies’ damages request "absurd" and contrary to copyright laws in a 14-page opinion.

The record companies, which had demanded damages ranging from $400 billion to $75 trillion, had argued that Section 504(c)(1) of the Copyright Act provided for damages for each instance of infringement where two or more parties were liable. For a popular site like Lime Wire, which had thousands of users and millions of downloads, Wood held that the damage award would be staggering under this interpretation. "If plaintiffs were able to pursue a statutory damage theory predicated on the number of direct infringers per work, defendants' damages could reach into the trillions," she wrote. "As defendants note, plaintiffs are suggesting an award that is 'more money than the entire music recording industry has made since Edison's invention of the phonograph in 1877.'"

While Wood conceded that the question of statutory interpretation was "an especially close question," she concluded that damages should be limited to one damage award per work.

"We were pleased that the judge followed both the law and the logic in reaching the conclusion that she did," said Lime Wire's attorney, Joseph Baio of Willkie Farr & Gallagher. "As the judge said in her opinion, when the copyright law was initiated, legislatures couldn't possibly conceive of what the world would become with the internet. As such, you couldn't use legislative history. Instead, the overarching issue is reasonableness in order to avoid absurd and possibly unconstitutional outcome." Baio, who is scheduled to represent Lime Wire when the damages trial begins on May 2, joked that the money that the record companies sought from his client would be better spent on paying for health care or wiping out the national debt.

## Apple Mac OS X Turns 10: A Look Back

Apple's Mac OS X celebrated its tenth birthday today - the day after the company's chief Mac engineer announced plans to leave Apple. It's been an eventful 10 years, so let's take a look back at the evolution of Mac OS X.

Mac OS X made its formal debut on March 24, 2001 and has gone through almost a dozen codenames, from Cheetah to the upcoming Lion. Initially, those names were only used internally, but as they gained in popularity, Apple started using them in its marketing materials, beginning with Mac OS X 10.2 Jaguar in 2002.

Mac OS X, however, dates back to 1994 with Apple's Copland project. That was eventually ditched for 1997's Apple Rhapsody Developer Release after Apple's acquisition of Steve Jobs's NeXT Software in late 1996. Rhapsody evolved into Mac OS X Server 1.0 (Hera) by 1999, and reached the public beta stage (Kodiak) by September 30, 2000. Six months later, it was ready for the public.

*Mac OS X: Cheetah*
In a 2001 press release, Jobs said Mac OS X was "the most important software from Apple since the original Macintosh operating system in 1984 that revolutionized the entire industry." At launch, there were 350 applications for Mac OS X, including iMovie 2, iTunes, and a preview of AppleWorks 6.1, the company's productivity software. Apple touted the operating system's new Aqua interface, which included the introduction of the Mac dock. It was $129, and ran on the iMac, iBook, Power Macintosh G3,

Power Mac G4, Power Mac G4 Cube and any PowerBook introduced after May 1998.

In our review , PCMag said OS X is a great leap forward. "Since its humble beginning in 1994 under the name Copland, OS X has endured a variety of dead-ends and name changes before finally making it to the market. The result, however, is a UNIX-based OS that, in time, should bring Mac users tremendous gains in stability and performance," PCMag said.

The OS lacked some printer support and made it difficult to use old applications, but overall, PCMag found it to be "a reliable, high-performance system that excels in graphics capabilities and looks good, to boot."

*Mac OS X 10.1: Puma*
Apple showed off Mac OS X 10.1 during a July 2001 Macworld keynote, and released it on September 25. Apple promised enhanced performance, a refined Aqua user interface, and upgraded support for digital media and devices like DVDs, MP3 CDs, MP3 players, printers, digital cameras, and DV camcorders. It also cost $129, with an upgrade option available for free until October 31 and $19.95 thereafter."Mac OS X v10.1 is a stunning upgrade - and only six months after releasing Mac OS X," Jobs said at the time.

In our PCMag review, we found that OS X 10.1 "deserves praise, but many of these enhancements should have been there from the beginning." The main reason for the upgrade, we found, was the performance boost. "It’s remarkably faster than the sluggish version 10.0," PCMag wrote.

*Mac OS X 10.2: Jaguar*
This upgrade, the first one that used the cat-related codenames in marketing materials, debuted in August 2002. Apple "unleashed" Jaguar at Apple retail stores at 10:20pm on August 23 with a variety of Jaguar-related kick-off events. It incorporated more than 150 new features and apps, including iChat, junk mail filtering, and Rendezvous networking technology. The company offered a five-user family pack for $199 in addition to the regularly priced $129 OS.

Apple later announced that Mac OS X 10.2 Jaguar sold 100,000 copies in its first weekend, with more than 50,000 people visiting Apple’s 35 stores during the kick-off events.

"Apple is clearly serious about enticing Windows PC users to switch," PCMag said in 2002. "This release has far more essential improvements for professionals working in multiplatform environments than for home users."

*Mac OS X 10.3: Panther*
After unleashing Jaguar, Apple followed up more than a year later with "Night of the Panther" on October 24, 2003. Version 10.3 also included more than 150 new features, including a new Finder with one-click access to files and folders, the Exposˆ' window-viewing feature, and iChat AV video conferencing. The company also released Mac OS X Server 10.3 at the same time; $499 for 10 clients and $999 for unlimited.

Again, speed was a "big reason to upgrade to 10.3," PCMag found. Expos also provided "an ideal solution for those who find it a hassle to switch between open applications." In this release, Apple also added more Windows compatibility like Active Directory support and allowing Apple’s Mail and Address Book utilities to work with Microsoft Exchange

Servers.

"Suffice it to say that with the speed and usability enhancements, the $129 (direct) price is more than justified," PCMag concluded.

*Mac OS X 10.4: Tiger*
Apple’s Tiger update didn’t drop until April 2005, bringing more than 200 features like the Spotlight search function and Dashboard, which included access to a "dazzling new class of applications called widgets."

"Our competitors will be trying to copy Tiger’s more than 200 new features and innovations for years to come," Apple’s Phil Schiller said at the time.

"This upgrade will be known for the speed it brings to daily tasks, as well as for the usefulness and creative design of its many improvements (Apple lists over 200 of them)," PCMag wrote in its review. "While a few standout additions are grabbing the headlines, it’s the systemwide improvements that will thrill the Mac faithful."

"Once you taste the power of Spotlight, you’ll wonder how you ever lived without competent, easy-to-use desktop search," PCMag continued. "And since having the latest build of the OS is usually a requirement for running any other subsequent product upgrades (the next version of iLife or iWork, for example), you’ll want to grab this Tiger by the tail."

*Mac OS X 10.5: Leopard*
Leopard made its debut in October 2007 with a revamped desktop that included the Stacks file search option, a redesigned Finder, Quick Look, and Time Machine backup.

"Despite minor problems, it’s by far the best operating system ever written for the vast majority of consumers, with dozens of new features that have real practical value - like truly automated backups, document and spreadsheet preview images in folders, and notes and to-do lists integrated into the mail program," PCMag found.

For the average user, "Leopard is the most polished and easiest to use OS I’ve tested," PCMag said.

Still, "its pervasive eye-candy starts out looking dazzling but soon becomes distracting," making the customization options necessary.

*Mac OS X 10.6: Snow Leopard*
Snow Leopard debuted in August 2009, and Apple said it refined 90 percent of the 1,000 projects that make up OS X. It was half the size of previous releases, freeing up 7GB of drive space. It included support for 64-bit processors, while remaining compatible with 32-bit apps.

PCMag found that Snow Leopard was "the brainiest, brawniest, and most beautiful consumer-oriented OS available anywher - and it ships with the best built-in applications and utilities you can find."

*Mac SO X 10.7: Lion*
The next generation of OS X is expected to launch later this year, but Apple has provided a few sneak peeks at Lion. As PCMag software analyst Michael Muchmore found out last month, Lion borrows a lot from iOS, but that’s because iOS started out as a whittled down version of Mac OS X, so the tides have turned.

Upcoming features include AirDrop, a wireless file-sharing utility; a redesigned Mail app; Resume, which presents the OS and apps in the exact state at shutdown; Versions, which allows app developers to implement a feature that saves multiple snapshots of any document being worked on; and AutoSave, which does what its name suggests, saving documents automatically.

Interface tools include LaunchPad (which is like bringing the iPhone or iPad screen to the Mac), Mission Control, which replaces Spaces and Expose, and multitouch support.

## Top 5 Online 2011 Tax Scams

You may not want to think about your taxes until Tax Day on April 15, but online scammers are already plotting to separate you from your tax refund and your identity. Scams for the 2011 tax season include promises of tax credits for charitable donations to disaster relief in Japan, malware-laden Websites optimized for search engines, dangerous e-mail, and so-called ’likejacking’ techniques found on the social network Facebook.

About 19 million people have already filed their taxes at home in 2011, an increase of almost 6 percent from the year previous, according to the Internal Revenue Service. Consequently, this time of year is ripe for tax-related online scams. Crooks know that taxpayers are looking for information on deductions and tax laws. They know that this is the time of year when taxpayers submit personal information online and store sensitive financial documents on their hard drives.

Jennifer Torode, a spokesperson for the security firm Sophos, says that most of us wait until the last minute to file our tax forms. Scammers know this and "take advantage over the next few weeks to find ways to lure frantic filers into their webs," she says.

Here are five tips to help you avoid getting ensnared by tax scammers this tax season.

*1. Japan Quake Scam*

Among the newest scams for 2011 are bogus e-mail messages promising a tax credit applicable to your 2010 tax return if you make a charitable donation to Japan earthquake relief, according to McAfee consultant and identity theft expert Robert Siciliano. "The scam is based on the ruse being similar to a real law passed last year regarding Haiti," Siciliano said. In January 2010, Congress passed the Haiti Assistance Income Tax Incentive Act that allowed taxpayers to contribute to Haiti relief from January 11 to March 1, 2010 and claim it on their 2009 tax return. So far, the government has not established any retroactive tax rules involving this year’s relief effort for Japan.

*Tip:* You can find many earthquake relief scams online; however, it’s not clear how prevalent this particular scam is. For more information on how to make tax-deductible donations safely and effectively, consult this notice on IRS.gov.

*2. Gone Phishing*

One of the most popular ways to scam people during tax season is to set up Websites that look as if they are an official IRS site or a legitimate tax preparation service. "We have seen some scammers pretending to be tax preparation services, abusing brand names such as TurboTax, to obtain people’s personal details," said Richard Wang, manager for Sophos Labs.

Other sites are designed to trick you into downloading a PDF file laden with malware, according to Jeff Horne, director of threat research for the security company Webroot. Horne also warns that sites may try to sneak malware onto your machine using a technique called a "drive-by download." Such sites contain code looking for exploits in your browser that will enable them to download malware onto your system without your knowledge. Merely by using a vulnerable browser to visit a site, you can be victimized with bad guys wielding this technique.

Once tax-related malware is loaded on your machine, it can set up a keylogger to track everything you type into your computer, or it can search your saved documents for keywords related to tax season such as "social security" or "1040."

*Tip:* The best defense against drive-by downloads is to make sure that you always use the latest version of a modern Web browser, such as Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox.

*3. Black Hat SEO*

One of the tricks that crooks use to lure victims into a scam is to optimize their sites for Google searches, a technique known as "black hat SEO" (the acronym stands for "search engine optimization"). Horne suspects that these sites use resources such as Google Trends and Google Insights to discover the types of tax-related searches people are requesting. Once criminals have figured out some of the more popular keywords for this year’s tax searches it’s not difficult for them to optimize their bogus sites for search engines.

*Tip:* "Never use search engines to search for tax documents," Horne said. Instead, go directly to the government site (such as IRS.gov, USA.gov, or an individual state government site ending in ’.gov’) to look for tax forms and other tax information.

*4. Likejacking*

Facebook and other social networking sites are major targets for online scammers looking to make a quick buck off tax season. Horne says that Webroot has seen some examples of ’likejacking’ in which scammers try to trick you into ’liking’ their scam site on Facebook. Achieving this objective may involve hiding a Facebook "Like" button under another button on a third-party Website or exploiting a weakness in your browser by using a few snippets of JavaScript to press the Like button for you.

Once you "like" the site, an external link will show up in your Facebook news feed with a scam message such as, "I just got $500 by using this free tax preparation service." Friends who see that message may be tempted to click the link leading them to a phishing site or a spam site looking to increase its ad revenue by generating Web traffic.Note, however, that some legitimate tax preparation services are promoted on Facebook by institutions such as universities as well by individual friends.

*Tip:* Don’t choose a tax preparation service on the basis of Facebook message attributed to a friend. At the very least, talk to the friend directly to confirm that he or she endorses the service.

*3 percent of online Americans still using Internet Explorer 6, dump it for the latest version of IE available for your operating system - or use a different popular browser such as Chrome or Firefox. *

*3. Never use a search engine to look for government documents. Instead, go directly to sites such as IRS.gov, USA.gov, or individual state government sites ending in .gov, and search for forms there. *

*4. Never open or download attachments included with messages claiming to be from the IRS. The wisest course may be to refrain from opening any unsolicited tax-related e-mail message, as some poisoned messages use HTML to exploit weaknesses in your browser and initiate a drive-by download. *

*5. Never do your taxes over an unencrypted wireless connection such as free Wi-Fi at Starbucks. At home, even if you use the latest wireless security encryption standards such as WPA2 there, you are better off breaking out the LAN cable and using a wired connection when dealing with sensitive financial information. *

*6. Once you’re finished filing your taxes for this year, make sure that you move all of your tax-related files for safe keeping to a USB key, an external hard drive, or some other form of removable storage. Then wipe all tax files off your computer’s hard drive. Tax-related malware may lurk online long after tax season is over, according to Horne. If you happen to get infected, and you’ve stored your tax forms in a special folder on your PC, it won’t take much for a scammer to steal your identity. *

**IRS Advice* *

*The IRS also has a lot of helpful information to help keep you safe from phishing and other e-mail scams. The IRS emphasizes that it never asks taxpayers for their passwords, PINs, or other secret data relating to bank accounts and credit cards. Furthermore, never initiates taxpayer communication through e-mail. If you receive a dubious e-mail message claiming to be from the IRS, you can report it by forwarding the message without altering it to phishing@irs.gov. For more online tax security tips, check out the IRS’s page on how to protect your personal information. *

## More Than Half of US Adults Use Facebook

More than half of US adults use online social networking service Facebook, according to an upcoming study.

A report by Edison Research and Arbitron Inc. to be released on April 5 includes the finding that 51 percent of US residents age 12 or older have profiles set up at Facebook.

Facebook terms of service require people to be at least 13 years old to be members of the online community, which boasts more than a half-billion users.

"We have been tracking the growth of Facebook since 2008, and have watched it go from eight percent usage just three years ago, to 51 percent today," New Jersey-based Edison said in a release.

The market tracking firms based the findings on a January survey of 2,020 people. Study findings presented in a webcast will include the popularity of accessing social networks using mobile phones, according to Edison.

## OMG, the Oxford English Dictionary Added New Words! We 'Heart' It! LOL!

Before you take to the comments to ream us out about the above headline: "OMG," "LOL" and the symbol for "heart" have all been added to the Oxford English Dictionary Online.

According to the OED's site, the newest edition of the dictionary (which comes out online today) revises more than 1,900 entries and includes a ton of new words - including the neologisms above.

So what do OMG and LOL mean to the /OED/? In the electronic realm, they're merely shorthand for surprise and mirth. In the real-world space - according to the OED's blog post - "The intention is usually to signal an informal, gossipy mode of expression, and perhaps parody the level of unreflective enthusiasm or overstatement that can sometimes appear in online discourse, while at the same time marking oneself as an 'insider' au fait with the forms of expression associated with the latest technology."

So, we're going with irony rather than pre-teen sincerity here, huh, OED? Fair enough.

The OED also reveals that these neologisms aren't as neo as we might think: The first quotation the dictionary uses for the definition of OMG is from a letter dating back to 1917, and LOL meant "little old lady" back in 1960.

The heart sign, however, is perhaps the most interesting addition. As the post says, "This update may be the first English usage to develop via the medium of T-shirts and bumper-stickers."

All this is fine and good, but I'm holding out for the next edition, which will hopefully include some of those symbols all those witch house bands have been throwing around of late. OMG, I would <3 that! LOL!

## Tech-Savvy Student Tracks Down MacBook Air Thief

What would you do if you were a college freshman and your MacBook Air was stolen? Aside from calling your parents and crying, of course.

Eighteen-year-old "technology entrepreneur" and Bentley College student Mark Baohad his MacBook Air stolen in February. Unlike other bright-eyed college freshmen, Bao didn't write his laptop off as gone forever (ok, maybe he did--he went out and purchased another laptop the very same

night it was stolen), he set out to find the thief.

Using online backup software BackBlaze that he'd installed on his laptop, Bao was able to see the machine's browser history and track any hard drive updates.

"Woah. Thanks to @Backblaze, I think I might be able to figure out who stole my MacBook Air at college. Creeping through the Safari history!" Bao Tweeted on March 19.

Apparently the first thing the thief did was take a photo of himself using the laptop's Photo Booth program. Bao discovered this little gem and took to Twitter: "Wow. The first thing that MacBook thieves do REALLY IS take pictures on Photo Booth. I didn't think they were that dumb!" Bao wrote in a Tweet.

After discovering the photo, Bao discovered a video the thief had taken of himself dancing to Tyga's "Make it Rain." Bao uploaded the video to Vimeo, managed to hunt down the guy's Facebook page using the aforementioned Safari history, and then turned everything over to the police.

Needless to say, the gig was up for our dancing thief, who returned the laptop to the police and sent Bao an apology note on Facebook (the two attended the same school and had mutual friends). Bao told the Daily Mail that he holds no grudges against the thief, because "I don't have time nor patience to. There are more important things in life."

Mark no longer has any use for his old laptop, so he's selling it and donating the proceeds to the Red Cross Japan fund.

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